

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 T-03 OMB-01

IO-12 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 RSR-01 SY-07 /101 W

----- 100230

O R 201340 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6223

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0886

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR KU IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI ATTACK ON KUWAITI BORDER POST

REF: KUWAIT 872 AND 873

SUMMARY: FONOFF EXPLAINED BORDER INCIDENT AS UNPROVOKED
ATTACK ON KUWAITI BORDER POSTS. GOK SEEKING RESOLVE PROBLEM BY
PEACEFUL MEANS AND HAS ASKED FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS TO USE
THEIR INFLUENCE TO CONVINCE IRAQ TO AVOID FURTHER UNREASONABLE
ACTION. MEANWHILE IRAQI RADIO ACCUSES KUWAIT OF ATTACKING
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ITS FORCES DURING MANEUVERS. EMBASSY URGES USG ISSUE
STATEMENT CALLING FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BY PEACEFUL MEANS.
END SUMMARY.

1. ALL AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES IN KUWAIT CALLED TO FONMINISTRY
1:30 P. M. MAR 20 TO HEAR UNDERSEC RASHID EXPLAIN GOK VIEWPOINT
ON IRAQI ATTACK AND REQUEST SUPPORT FOR KUWAIT AS INJURED PARTY.
FOLLOWING IS GIST UNDER SEC' S REMARKS, DELIVERED ORALLY:

2. IRAQI- KUWAITI BORDER FIRST AGREED UPON IN 1932. FURTHER AGREE-
MENT IMPLEMENTING 1932 UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED IN 1963 BY
CURRENT PRESIDENT BAKR FOR IRAQ AND AMIR SABAH OF KUWAIT. GOK
HAS BEEN TRYING EVER SINCE TO ACHIEVE ACTUAL DELINEATION OF
FRONTIERS, LAST EFFORT WAS DURING JANUARY VISIT OF KUWAIT FONMIN
SABAH TO IRAQ. KUWAITIS AT THAT TIME RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM
BAGHDAD THAT TOP ECHELONS OF GOI HAD TAKEN NOTE OF KUWAITI INTER-
EST IN BORDER QUESTION AND THAT SUBJECT WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSED
WITHIN SEVERAL WEEKS WHEN IRAQI DELEGATION WOULD COME TO KUWAIT.

3. KUWAITIS WERE HAPPY WHEN TOLD GOI READY TO DISCUSS BORDER
ISSUE, BUT IN FACT IRAQIS CONTINUED TO BUILD ROAD AND COMMIT OTHER
VIOLATIONS OF FRONTIER. SHOWING GREAT FOREBEARANCE, KUWAIT CON-
TINUED AVOID CLASH.

4. KUWAIT HAS FIVE POSTS FROM WEST TO EAST ALONG BORDER WITH
IRAQ. THE TWO STATIONS INVOLVED IN TODAY' S ATTACK WERE POSTS ON
SEA AT UMM QASR (JUST SOUTH OF IRAQI BASE WHICH ALSO IN UMM QASR
AREA), AND POST AT AL- SUMTAH, FOUR OR FIVE KILOMETERS TO THE
WEST. FOR SOME MONTHS IRAQIS HAVE BEEN BUILDING ROAD IN
KUWAITI TERRITORY AT AL- SUMTAH. DESPITE THIS PROVOCATION, KUWAIT
REACTED CALMLY AND REASONABLY. KUWAIT NOT INTERESTED IN MAKING
ENEMIES BUT IN PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT AND FRIENDSHIP.

5. AT 3:20 A. M. MAR 20, IRAQI FORCES ATTACKED AL- SUMTAH. OF
20 MAN, LIGHTLY ARMED, POLICE GARRISON, ONE OFFICER REPORTED
KILLED, FOUR WOUNDED AND ABOUT EIGHT MISSING. GOK HAS REQUESTED
IRAQI FORCE WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY, SURRENDER KUWAITI PRISONERS,
AND DEAL WITH MATTER ACROSS NEGOTIATING TABLE, NOT WITH GUNS.
KUWAITI INFORMATION IS, HOWEVER, THAT IRAQIS INTEND OCCUPY SECOND
POST AT UMM QASR WHICH WAS ALSO ATTACKED THIS MORNING WITH
ARTILLERY FIRE. KUWAITI FORCES HAVE BEEN MOVED TO BORDER AREA
AND WILL DEFEND UMM QASR POST IF NECESSARY.
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6. GOK WANTS TO SOLVE DISPUTE PEACEFULLY AND STILL PREPARED DO SO. KUWAITI RADIO REFRAINING FROM PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS. NEVERTHELESS KUWAIT ENTITLED DEFEND ITS TERRITORY AND WILL DO SO. KUWAIT HOPES REASON WILL PREVAIL. IT HAS CONVEYED ITS VIEWPOINT TO ALL ARAB CAPITALS AND REQUESTS THAT ALL FRIENDS OF KUWAIT LEND SUPPORT AND USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO CONVINCE KUWAIT' S NEIGHBOR TO NORTH TO AVOID FURTHER UNREASONABLE ACTION. KUWAIT ALSO WANTS WORLD TO KNOW THAT ALL DEMONSTRATIONS YAVE BESNKWXPROHIBITED IN KUWAIT AND THAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY KUWAITI SECURITY FORCES TO PROTECT ALL IRAQIS LIVING IN KUWAIT. END OF UNDERSEC' S REMARKS.

7. NOTE: IRAQI RADIO HAS JUST BROADCAST FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT: QTE: KUWAITI MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ISSUED STATEMENT THIS MORNING SAYING THAT AN IRAQI ARMED UNIT ATTACKED A KUWAITI POLICE POST AND INJURED SOME SOLDIERS ETC. TRUTH IS THAT AGGRESSION WAS ORIGINALLY INITIATED BY KUWAITI FORCES AGAINST IRAQI FORCES WHICH WERE CARRYING OUT THEIR NORMAL TRAINING THAT THAT AREA INCLUDING AREA WHERE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE, WHICH RESULTED IN KILLING TWO AND INJURING OTHERS OF OUR LOCAL FORCES. WE REGRET THAT THIS SHOULD HAPPEN AT A TIME WHEN VISITS ARE BEING EXCHANGED BETWEEN TWO SISTERS AND WHEN AN IRAQI DELEGATION IS TO VISIT KUWAIT SHORTLY AND EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO STRENGTHEN BROTHERLY TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES... UNQTE.

8. WE THEREFORE URGE THAT, AS APPROPRIATE, DEPARTMENT MAKE STATEMENT CALLING ON PARTIES TO DISPUTE TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES BY PEACEFUL MEANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS ON UN CHARTER. IF SUBJECT IS BROUGHT BEFORE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL WE URGE UNITED STATES PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORTING ANY RESOLUTION TO THIS EFFECT. PRESUMABLY SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD ALSO CALL FOR CEASING OF ALL MILITARY ACTION AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES TO REACH A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION.
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